A MEMORY TEST.

The Act by Which One Controversy Was Decided.

Three men were disputing in Berlin one day as to which of them had the best memory, and finally they asked Oskar Blumenthal, a well known writer, to decide the matter.

"Read me any page of Goethe's prose works," said one of the three, "and I will at once repeat it word for word."

"I can do better than that," said the second one. "Put me in a corner of this room, and I will play three games of chess simultaneously without ever looking at the boards."

"That's nothing to what I can do," said the first speaker again. "Begin a conversation with me now about the most absurd things possible, and at the end of an hour I will repeat the entire conversation to you."

The third man was silent, and Blumenthal said to him: "Why don't you tell us what you can do? A few minutes ago you were boasting a good deal of your wonderful memory."

"I know it," was the reply, "but I did not then know that my two friends took the matter so seriously. And as they are so much in earnest I will not try to surpass them, for I cannot forget that each of them did me a favor yesterday."

"Yesterday?" asked Blumenthal.

"Yes," was the reply.

"And you have not yet forgotten it? In that case the laurels belong to you, for you have indeed a wonderful memory."—New York Herald.

Paying the Premium.

Some few months ago a young matron telephoned to one of the young men she knew, who is connected with a large insurance firm, asking him to write a policy covering her new household effects.

"Don't tell Dick," she asked. "I want to surprise him. He really thinks I have no business head at all."

The young man assented and issued the policy. He waited a considerable time for the payment of the premium. His friendship for the young woman caused him to resist sending the bill, but he finally did so. The recipient complained bitterly to an acquaintance, who is considerable of a wag, and he readily encouraged her in her ideas.

"Now, really," she said, wrinkling her pretty brows, "this bit of paper costs next to nothing. I could have written it myself."

"Yes," said he, "but if you have a fire the company will have to pay the loss."

"Well," she suggested, "let them deduct what they say I owe them. Then they won't be out anything."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Tricks of the Fahyahs.

The Fahyahs have a trick which is performed in this manner: They take a small cup, put it on the ground—all feats are performed in the open air—and place in it a small bulb, which is then covered with sand.

Taking a small fan from their waist and standing about two feet away, they fan a rosebush from the cup at least two and a half feet high, bearing quite a number of roses, one of which they will give for a piece of silver. The flower withers away into ether in twenty minutes.

I have seen a peach, a pear and a plum tree grow from seed, bear fruit and wither away again in five hours. I have seen these Fahyahs throw themselves upon broken glass held in a large box that it would be impossible for any one else to touch without receiving a wound and never get a scratch.

Admiral and Chaplain.

On the return from a long cruise Admiral Goldsborough's chaplain was asked by the admiral whether or not he considered the result of his labors satisfactory from a clerical standpoint.

"Yes," he answered, "the result has been in the main most satisfactory. The only serious impediment to progress with the sailors has been that it is impossible to prevent their swearing when they hear the officers guilty of the very fault for which I correct them."

"Tut, tut, man, that is not to be helped. The officers all swear," replied the admiral. "I do it myself sometimes, but I don't mean anything—not a bit more than you do by your praying."

Saved by His Wits.

The Duke of Wellington once met by accident an officer in a state of inebriety.

"Look here, sir," said the Iron Duke. "What would you do if you met one of your men in the condition in which I find you?"

The officer drew himself up, gave the military salute and replied with great gravity, "I would not condescend to speak to the brute!" His wit saved him his commission.

The Inquiring Mind.

Jimmy—I say, daddy, I want you to answer a question.

His Father—What is it?

Jimmy—Well, if the end of the world was to come and the earth was destroyed while a man was up in a balloon, where would he land when he came down?

Far From It.

Girl With the Plump Neck—Fan Billiwick has begun to show her age, hasn't she?

Girl With the Dimple—I should say not! She's begun to try to hide it.—Chicago Tribune.

Some people can study a subject all their lives and then know nothing about it.—Atchison Globe.

A man is generally at his heaviest in his fortieth year.

PERSIAN RUGS.

A Safe Rule by Which to Distinguish the Genuine Ones.

A great many persons flatter themselves that they are able to tell a genuine Persian rug from a spurious machine made one by touch, but in this they deceive themselves. The best and surest way to tell a genuine from an imitation Persian rug is the following:

If one will look closely, one will observe that in the genuine Persian rug the intricate and complicated pattern or design is not altogether symmetrical, the corresponding flowers, vines or geometrical figures of one side being a little out of line, larger or smaller or not meeting and pointing with figures on the corresponding detail on the opposite side of the rug. This is owing to the fact that in hand weaving it is impossible to obtain perfect symmetry of patterns, especially when the designs are as complicated as they are on Persian rugs. On the other hand, let one examine closely the machine made rug, and one will find the most perfect symmetry of pattern, so much so in fact that the design looks positively rigid and harsh. This a pretty safe guide, and if observed one will seldom mistake an imitation for a genuine Persian rug.

Cultivating Ginger.

Ginger is made a matter of scientific culture in Jamaica. It is propagated by cutting up small pieces of the root, and if possible, rich, cool soil from recently cleared woods is selected for it. It is a great impoverisher of the soil and grows so luxuriantly that in a short time a little piece of root will spread so as to produce nearly a pound of new roots. The sets are planted in March or April and get to their full growth about September.

The roots are dug usually in Jamaica in January or February. They are washed, exposed to the sun until thoroughly dried and packed in parcels of about a hundred pounds each. In order to dry them more rapidly they are first scalded in a little copper pot in order to destroy life, of which the roots are very tenacious. White ginger and black ginger are from the same roots, the difference arising from methods of curing. Roots for sugar preserving are dug while quite young, before the stems are more than five or six inches high.

Mexican Child Life.

Mexican children high and low are exceedingly fortunate in being treated almost uniformly with the greatest kindness and affection by their parents. From babyhood they have an excellent understanding with their elders, respect and affection on one side, affection and tenderness on the other. No Indian is too ragged or dirty to kiss the hand of his tattered old mother with the grace of a lord. This habit, with the real reverence of which it is the outward and visible symbol, is commenced early in childhood. An Indian, even drunk, does not abuse his family. Assisted home by a friend on either side, whose condition is only a few degrees better than his own, he sits on his doorstep, the one entrance to the single unlighted room constituting his dwelling, and contemplates life with maudlin good nature while the children and dogs play around him and over him until he falls into drunken stupor.

Syrian Asphalt.

Asphalt is found in the provinces of Syria on the banks of the Dead sea floating on the surface of its waters. Through the action of earthquakes the asphalt has been torn from the bottom of the sea and driven toward the shores, especially to the east. The narratives of the Greek and Roman historians to the effect that asphalt as small islands was upheld by the salt water and driven over the surface of the sea are without doubt true. This asphalt and generally the oriental or Egyptian is pure and expensive and used principally in the manufacture of a certain kind of varnish, but for general purposes, owing to its brittleness as well, is useless in the asphalt industry.—American Asphalt Journal.

He Got the Guineas.

A pretty story is told of an English nobleman whom his barber left half shaved and in a great hurry. His lordship thought the man was mad and sent to inquire after him.

He returned in person and thus explained himself: "I was not mad, my lord, but the sight of that heap of guineas on your dressing table and the remembrance of my starving family so affected me that if I had stayed another minute I should have cut your throat."

"I am glad you didn't do that," said his lordship gently, "and by all means take the guineas. I won them at the gambling table and should doubtless have lost them there."

By Proxy.

"What I object to," said the young woman who wants a vote, "is taxation without representation."

"If it's all the same to you," said the young man who is too bashful to propose directly, "I should be only too happy to represent your sentiments at the polls at every election."—Washington Star.

A Wife.

Benedict—Give me a few pointers on how to manage a wife, old chap.

Meeks—Can't, old boy, but I can give you no end of advice on how to be managed by a wife so that you'll think you are the manager.—Brooklyn Life.

Honest.

"Is he honest?"

"Honest! Why, say, I don't believe that man would cheat an Indian out of his reservation if he had the chance!"—Chicago Post.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Bloomfield National Bank for the Election of Directors to serve during the ensuing year will be held at the Banking House on Tuesday, January 12, 1904. Polls will be open from 3.30 P. M. to 4 P. M.

LEWIS K. DODD, Cashier.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., December 11, 1903.

BLOOMFIELD TRUST CO.

NOTICE OF ELECTION.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Company for the Election of Directors to serve during the ensuing year and for such other business as may be presented, will be held at its offices, No. 1 Broad Street, Bloomfield, N. J., on Tuesday, January 12, 1904, at twelve o'clock noon.

JOSEPH H. DODD, Secretary.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., Dec. 29, 1903.

BLOOMFIELD TRUST COMPANY.

The regular half yearly interest dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum payable on and after January 20, 1904, will be credited to all accounts in the special interest department entitled thereto under the By-Laws.

BLOOMFIELD SAVINGS INSTITUTION.

The managers of this institution have declared the usual half yearly interest dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, payable on and after January 20, 1904, on all deposits entitled thereto under the By Laws.

ESSEX COUNTY MUTUAL INS. CO.

The annual meeting of this company for the election of directors and for other business will be held at its office, No. 7 Broad Street, Bloomfield, N. J., on Monday, January 11, 1904, between the hours of four and five o'clock P. M.

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

BLOOMFIELD Building and Loan Association

WILL BE HELD ON

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1904.

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK P. M.,

At No. 27 BROAD STREET,

For the purpose of receiving the report of the Secretary and Auditing Committee; the election of three Directors for three years, one Director for one year, and one Shareholder (not director) as member of the Auditing Committee for three years; the payment of dues, interest, fines, and the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. Polls open from 8 to 9 o'clock.

New Series of Stock, the 23d, will be opened.

By order of the Board of Directors.

J. BANKS REFORD, Secretary.

BLOOMFIELD, December 22, 1903.

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December 2, 1903.

ESTATE OF JOHN CARROLL, DECEASED.

Pursuant to the order of JOSEPH W. ELLOR, Surrogate of the County of Essex, this day made, on the application of the undersigned administrators of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscribers under oath or affirmation their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased within nine months from this date, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscribers.

MARIA CARROLL,
ROBERT M. BOYD, JR.

Present Claims to ROBERT M. BOYD, JR., 96 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, N. J.

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